

Executive Registry

62-9250

DDR 818-62

16 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: CIA Research Board

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 7 for your approval.
2. Reference is made to the decision of the Director to form a new CIA Research Board, as indicated in the Agency Executive Committee meeting of 13 December. The Board should be composed of leaders in their fields but, more importantly, ones with imagination and a willingness to actually give time to various Agency problems.
3. It seems desirable to form a board composed of about ten members selected from different specific fields. These would constitute the general board. It is also desirable to appoint members to the board for a specific term, such as three years, so that continued rotation of individuals can be effected. Experience indicates that breaking the board into panels on specific problems is very desirable as a *modus operandi*. These panels would be empowered to employ specialists as consultants who are not on the regular board. However, most panels should consist of at least two board members.
4. The ability to get useful results from a board of this nature is directly proportional to the amount of technical effort invested by the organization they advise. This effort must take the form, primarily, of very capable scientific staff support. Scientists of this calibre will respect only the best we have to offer in the way of technical talent as their associates on our various problems. Much staff work will be required in the form of briefings and analysis, as

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well as probably supplying the executive secretary for each panel. Also, the continued enthusiasm of such scientists depends to a large extent on the acceptance of their various recommendations. We must be prepared to accept some which may be difficult to implement. Also, these people will not wish to be told that there are security barriers involved and this will mean giving them a considerable number of security clearances.

25X1 5. Turning now to some specific individuals who might be considered: The problem of a chairman is all-important, as he probably should be consulted in the selection of the board members as well as being necessary to induce them to join. He should have stature enough to be able to get commitments for work from the board members as well as to guide the board generally. It is probably not desirable to include any present members of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. I believe that

[redacted] would be a very capable chairman, if we can persuade him to devote sufficient time. I would hope for your personal support in obtaining the services of

25X1 [redacted] Attached is a partial list of candidates for the board, which would be discussed in particular detail with the chairman and Agency representatives.

25X1 6. I believe that most of the membership of the present Research Board, which was under the chairmanship of [redacted] is not suited to an active working role on Agency problems. I am convinced that the members could be released from their commitment with no ill feelings by an appropriate letter signed by you. This should be done without any further meeting. It will be much more satisfactory to start with a complete new board than attempt a transformation of the present membership.

7. In order to accomplish the above, the following is recommended:

a. That the Director and the DD/R approach [redacted] to become Chairman of a new CIA Research Board.

b. That the board consist of ten members selected from a wide variety of scientific fields. Special sub-panels would be formed as required by the various scientific components of the Agency.

c. That the DD/R provide the Executive Secretariat for the main board, and each Agency component provide a secretary for its sub-panels.

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d. That the present Agency research board, formerly under [redacted] be terminated.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Research)

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Attachment:

List of Candidates

[redacted] informed O/Exec Director that memo has been shown to NPIC, Commo, OSI and TSD, and there were no strong objections.

Recommendation approved:

Director of Central Intelligence

O/DDR [redacted] mh

25X1

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advance of approval*

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